



Washington's Mental Health Transformation Project

Partnerships for Recovery & Resiliency

TRANSFORMATION NEWS

MAY 17, 2006

The Mental Health Transformation Project is pleased to announce the launch of our new web site! Visit us at www.MHTransformation.wa.gov.

TWG APPROVES SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITY OUTCOMES

The Transformation Work Group (TWG) met in Yakima on April 21 and listened to presentations from each of the seven Subcommittees. Subcommittee members articulated what they heard, and gave a very human voice to the proceedings. Following the presentation, the TWG undertook a number of procedural issues regarding the priority outcomes. Discussions included a debate about how to forward the outcomes to the Task Groups as an integrated set of themes or by subcommittee. Subcommittee members gave clear input on the importance of the outcomes as they presented them. After considering a number of approaches, the TWG approved the outcomes by Subcommittee, but included the integrated set of themes to help Task Groups in guiding their work.

The TWG also asked that the Task Group work be more closely guided by Subcommittee members. Ken Stark and the project staff have developed a number of methods to assure continuing involvement with the Task Groups and the Subcommittee co-chairs. The Task Groups kick-off meeting on April 28 included the presentation from Subcommittee members. Co-chairs will also be included in the communication strategies set for the Task Group work. Additionally, two meetings planned for Task Group members will be attended by Subcommittee co-chairs. Finally, the chairs of both groups will be involved in the presentation of strategies at the June 16 TWG meeting.

TASK GROUPS BEGIN WORK

Task Group members, who are subject area experts in the areas of Evidence Based Practice, Finance, Data and Cultural Competence, met April 28 to formulate their work plan. The Task Groups are charged by the TWG to develop strategies in response to the [27 Outcomes](#) produced by the public process of the Subcommittees. The meeting, held in Tumwater, brought 81 professionals together for a full day.

Subcommittee chairs began the day with presentations to the Task Groups. During the facilitated discussion, each Task Group determined how they would approach the work and who would be assigned leadership roles. Each Task group is supported with weekly conference calls, LISTSERV communications and any additional requests to Project staff. Some groups will meet a number of time before finalizing their strategy work.

Task Groups will meet again May 26 to present initial draft recommendations to the whole group, then the chairs of the Task Groups will meet with the co-chairs of the Subcommittees on June 8 to assure the strategies are responsive to the recommended outcomes. Finally, Task Groups bring their strategy recommendations to the TWG on June 16.



Erin Peterschick has been around mental health issues all of her life. As the daughter of a psychiatric nurse and growing up in Spokane, WA she spent time volunteering at Eastern State Hospital and even held her first job at the Campus Inn Café on ESH grounds. Erin feels mental health and the myriad of related issues has touched every aspect of her life, from dealing with mental illness in her own family to efforts to break down stigma and address understanding of mental illness at school, in work, and in her personal life. Upon graduating with her Master's in Public Administration, she relocated to Washington following several years working in government relations in Oregon.

Erin came to the Mental Health Transformation Project following her employment with the Mental Health Division as the Project Administrator for their liaison to the Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Mental Health Services and Financing. During this time, she was part of a three-person team that wrote the grant application for Washington's proposal to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to be one of the handful of states awarded a Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant. When Ken Stark came aboard as the transformation grant project's leader, Erin thrilled at the chance to continue her involvement in system transformation and accepted the position at Project Coordinator, where she continues to coordinate all aspects of grant implementation. When not trying to transform the mental health system for the better, Erin enjoys walks with her fiancé, foreign languages and travel, peace and social justice activism, and spending time with her family.

KEN STARK TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

The Mental Health Task Force, created in the 2004 legislature, is holding a meeting May 23, 2006 and has asked Ken Stark to report on the progress of Transformation. At the meeting on May 23rd, the Mental Health Task Force will be getting an update from the Mental Health Division (MHD) on implementation of policy and budget initiatives enacted during the 2006 session. The Task Force is interested in how the MHTP is advancing issues passed in the 2005 legislative session concerning recovery, resilience, consumer-directed services, and evidence-based treatment. Legislative members of the task force were instrumental in the state seeking the Transformation Grant last year, and SAMSHA referred to the work of the task force when announcing Washington as one of the grantees.

Rep. Eileen Cody (34th District) and Senator Linda Evans Parlette (12th) are the Co-Chairs of the Task force. Other member are Sen. Pat Thibadeau (43rd), Rep. Kelli Linville (42nd), Rep. Barbara Bailey (10th), Island County Commissioner Mike Shelton, DSHS Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams, and Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor Kari Burrell.

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with others. Questions or comments? Contact David Brenna, 360-902-8456 or brenndc@dshs.wa.gov. Visit our web site at <www.MHTransformation.wa.gov> If you'd like to sign up for this newsletter to come to your email address, sign up for the MHTG -NEWS Listserve: <<http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/mhtg-news.html>>